# KORG MS-20 OWNERS MANUAL



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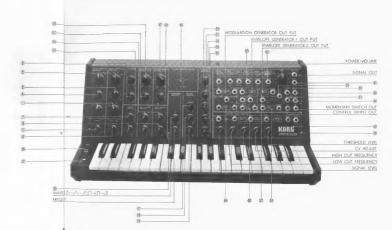
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SECUROF REQUESTED MODIFATION BY RGS (BIT (BNOTING) CONTROLLED MARTHER WOAL SIVELOPE GENERATORS (GGS) GENCIAD INS 120 TACK THE GENCEAU THE

SUSTAIN LEVE

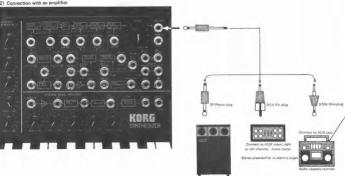


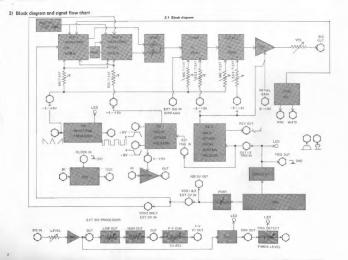
#### 1) Introduction

Congratulations on purchasing the Korg MS-20 Synthesizer, This instrument has been engineered and manufactured using the most advanced techniques known today, and features the same unparalleter technology utilized in Korn's revolutionary Polyphonic Synthesizers, the PS-3100 and PS-3300. With reasonable care, it will provide years of high quality and reliable use with unsurpassed stability, versatility and longevity,

Please read this manual carefully in order to get the most out of your MS-20

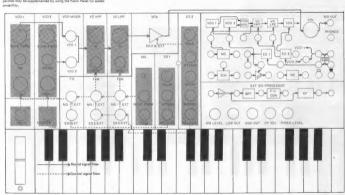






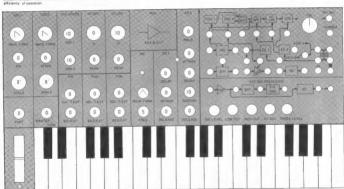
#### 3-2 Signal Flowchart

This diagram shows the various signal paths in the MS-20 Synthesizer. Solid lines (--) represent sound faulded) signal flow; trocken lines (--) represent countrol signal control vestages) flow, Countrol signals are connected from various parts of this synthesizer to the VOD, VCF and VCA by means of internal patchs. These internal patchs may be suppliersented by using the Patch Panal for added verselility.



### 4) Normal Setting

This dispress illustrates control positions for the Normal Setting. In this attention, all modulation functions are discussmentally optically as in a discussmental production as a discussmental production as a discussmental production of the set of the



#### 5) Features and functions

Voltage Controlled Oscillator (VCO)

The VCO is the source of all assund for the M5-20 synthesizer. It is here that all pitch and basic tonal color elements are determined. The

## MS-20 is equipped with two wide-range VCOs. (i) Scala: This control is an Octave selector, With each helving of the number

This control is an Octave selector. With each helving of the number displayed, the pitch goas up one octave. For example the 4' (foot) scale indication is one octave higher than 8'; similarly, 18' is one octave lower than 8'. VCC-1 is variable from 32' to 4'; VCC-2 is variable from 18' to 0'.

### 2 Waveform:

(Triangle Waver): A very basic veryelform having few harmonics, and possssing a soft, round tone color. Excellent for fluts, vibra and other such affects. The Trianals Wave may be changed into a Sine

West (having no hiermonise) by using the Lour Pass 8 liter.

[Bawtooth): A waveform rich in all hiermonics, and one of the most usfall to the synthesist. Used for synthesis, brees, voice and other hiermonisely in the sound.

#### highly effective on Sawtooth Waveforms.

Recitage Wave! A varietie waveform having different tembres depending on the width of the top (called Pulse Width). When the top and better width are expect, the waveform is called a Society waveform. Wave, and possesse the "hallow" qualities of the resid family (i.e., the clarinet), 4.5 the pulse width procedurately because, a strong shift in tone color occurs; the sound becomes "hase!" in markler. This execution is called the Charles Width is considered in called the Charles Width in the Width is called the Charles Width in the Width in the Charles Width in the Width in the Charles Wave Charles Width in the Wid

### on the MS-20 using the PW control (see below).

White Notes: An unpitched sound consisting of equal emounts of all frequencies. Used for wind, surf, gurehot, percussion instrument and other such affects. The use of lifeter will amphasize certain frequencies over others, carefully many different sound effects.

(Square Wave): A variation of the Rectangle Wave with equal top and bottom widths. A "hollow" sounding waveforem with only old reurableed harmonics present, Used to simulate read instruments

## and other closed pipe sounds.

(Pulse Wave): This Rectangle Waveform has a relativity narrow top width, and is characterized by a "nasal" tone quality, with strong presence of soper hannels. Used to implicit double reed instru

ments (eg, the oboe) and certain plucked string sounds (eg, harpsichord and stavines).

(RING) firing Modulator! This setting combines the sounds of both VCD's in such a way as to create sums and differences of all flarmonics present. The result is a chapperous, "mentaltic" sound which is usualt for gong, chime end other such affects. The two State controls as well as the Prich and PVP controls all affect the resulting

is salful for going, chame end other such effects. The two Scale controls are well as the Prich and PW controls all effect whe resulting sound, and should be used judiciously to create the desired effect.

(2) Prisels:
This control veries VCO-2's prisch over a range of 1 one octave You can either match VCO-2's prisch to VCO-1, or set it at any relative inserval (eg., third, fifth, etc.). Once set, prisch levels remain as:
Internals and the report of the officior among hands to force such.

#### nology.

This control varies the pulse width (PW) of VCO-1's Rectangle Wave. At 'O', the wevelorm is syrometrical (i.e., Savare Wave). Rocating the control declarate proportionalisty decreases the pulse width. Neer the full clockwise position, the pulse width becomes to nerrow at the virtuality disponent, and no sound will be heard.



#### (5) Portemento:

Varies the rete of "glide" , , , the time it takes the MS-20 to go from note to note. The ability to effect amount transitions between notes it unique to the monophonic synthesizer, and adds to the creative

effects available.

6. Master Tune:
This control varies the pich of both VCO's over a range of a 2 semi-

other instruments.

Frequency Modulation controls:
These controls allow other parts of the synthesizer to affect the VCO's night for each offects as without will prove the books. "Senses" ste-

MG/T, EXT.

Varies the intensity of Vibrato from the Modulation Generator (MG)

Triangle Ween restrict, or whatever signal is matched into the TOTAL.

#### BEGI/EXT:

With no attch in the patch print's FREQ jack, this control vertise the effect of Emelope Genelister 1 and the VQC y a. Above the control and play a rote on the Alyboard. Note that the prich of the note rises and falls corresponding to the Emelope curve fore Emerica-Generator 1), With any external controller patched in Fig., Control Wheel, Reverse Emelope, etc.1, the control now varies the intensity of this effect.

#### 7 VCO Mixer:

Independent output level controls for VCO-1 and VCO-2 allow the user to freely edjust volume balance of the two oscillators, or eliminate both VCO's when processing external sound sources.

eliminate both VCO's when processing external sound source Voltage Controlled High-Pass Filter (VCHPF)

### oltage Controlled High Pass Filter (VCHPF) This removes portions of the harmonic elements present in the

variable from the low range on up. Use the Cut-QTF Procuracy knob or activated control voltage to determine the out-off frequency. If our off Procuracy is the cut-off procuracy is the cut-off procuracy in the state on the knob pair from 0 m 10 four in the "0" coatrior, the filter is completely code and the basis cone color of the westerdom is left unchanged. A two Ut-orn out-be knob, the tone color becomes trighter, Play a note on the keyboard, prun the knob, and note is the different.

If Peals: This knob determines the smooth of emphasis spolied to the one right before the low-range out-off frequency chapter with the knob above. When turned up to around its maximum position, the filter install begins to oscillate, becoming in effect enother sond source. This self-oscillation capability is another big feature found in the MS-20.

#### Voltage Controlled Low-Pass Filter (VCLPF)

This removes upper harmonic elements of the waveforms chosen with the VCO section. The out-off frequency is variable from the high range down and is adjusted by massi of the Out-Off Prequency knob or an external control voltage.

Sold-Off Requencery: The scale on the knob opes from 0 ~ 10.

but in the "10" position, the filter is complicatly open and his no effect on tone color. As you surn the knobe countersofcokwise the assured will gradually become more rounded. At the forest setting it becomes beetly recognitable as a sound, Turn the knob white playing say and note the effect.

50 Perfect. The emphasizes the point right before the sub-off-

requency. Near its highest position, the filter itself begins to oscillate. This self-oscillation affect may be used as a separate sound source.

Cut-off Pressureme Modulation Controls:

# These controls allow other parts of the synthesizer to vary each filter's out-off frequency, in a manner similar to VCO frequency modulation.

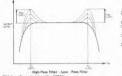
The Modulation Generator's Triangle Wave output modulates the filter frequency, for filter vibrato, automatic "we-wa", etc.

## 13 EG-2/EXT: This control varies the modulation intensity from Envelope Generator 2 living no patch is in the respective fifter CUT OFF

FREO, jeek). This highly useful affect is called "filter contouring", and allows you to obtain changes in tonal quality own clink. Learn to use this function, and to experiment with different strilligs of Envelope Generator 2 controls.

When an actirated device 6c. —Control Wheel, Padal, Reverse Envelope.

etc.) is patched and the appropriate fifter CUT OFF FREQ jack on the patch panel, this control varies the intensity of the external modulation of fect.



(EVeltage Controlled Amplifier (VCA)

This daying veries the volume of sound passing through it in accordance with the sum of control voiteous from Envelops Generator 2 4EO 31 and from new autorest controller natched into the parch

panel VCA INITIAL GAIN lack. Excelana Consesses A (EG-1): A special number Envelope Generator which is internally patched to the MS-20% UCDs and MUCA's (Markulation UCA) control inputs for ninch hands and rislayed vibrato affects respectively, to additions.

both cormal and reverse sovetone outputs are evallable at the petch panel for greater flexibility. 10 Delay Time: Determines the amount of time between the arrival of

the trigger signal and the beginning of the attack cycle 16 Attack Time: Adjusts the time it takes for the Envelope voltage to

go from zero to its peak level following the and of the delay time. 16 Retense Time: Determines the amount of time it takes for the voltage to drop to zero egain following the termination of the trigger signal.



Envelope Generator 2 (EG-2)

This device programs a riving and falling voltage which when applied to the NCA and NCE medical paramonding change in unknow and tone color respectively. The MS-20 features a unique 5 part Envelope Commerce for selded flowbilling When "evineered" leanelty by elepressing a note on the keyboard), the EG voltage rises to a peak at a rate set by the Attack Time control, then falls at the Decay Time

control rate to a level set by the Sustain Level control, and eventualby fally leads to soon following termination of the trioner sincel and Triangle the end of the Hold Time at the Release Time control rate. 28 Hold Time: Extends the trioner signal by a vertable amount of time.

In effect, it "remembers" the trigger for a specified time period. 21 Attach Time: Sate the time the unitsee takes to rice to a need-22 Decay Time: Sets the time the voltage takes to fall from the peak to

22 Stattain Level: Sets the voltage level which will be surtained for the

2 Release Time: Sets the time the voltage takes to fall to zero follow-

ing termination of the tripper signal The EG-2 output is internally patched to the VCA so that changes in

In addition, another EG-2 output is sent to the Filter Modulation

controls (EG-2/EXT) so us to modulate the VCE's cut-off frequency. In this mode, the filter's "steady state" is the Sustain Level. The shove the Sustain level during the Attack cycle, will fall to the Sus-



This device paperates a variable spend low framework modulation signal, and is also known as a Low Frequency Oscillator (LFO). Its main purpose is to provide vibrato, trills, repetitive attack, and other cyclical (i.e., repeating) types of modulations.

The MS-20 MC featurer two different conditionerus waveforms triangle and rectangle - both of whose shapes are continuously variable by means of the Waveform pontrol (see diagram). They MC framewhome is anthropol but the Enterespond condition, and is displayed via a fleshing red LED for easy visual confirmation. Both waveforms are available via parch panel connection. In addition, the MG's Triangle Wave is internally patched to the VCO's and

VCE's via their respective MC Maybulation Intensity controls. This modulating signal is patched through the T. EXT lack on the patch nenel A different modulation since! In a Sample S. Hald "Delaund"

Vibrato Wheel-controlled Vibrato, etc.) may be substituted at any time and round to all these MG intensity controls via this input incl.





Maryai Controllers

Consists of two Controllers located to the left of the keyboard for easy manipulation white playing.

20 Programmable Control Wheel: When connected to various control indute, this highly useful device can give such effects as pitch bends, modulation depth control.

filter "eweeping", sample and hold "erpeggios", and many more. 27 Momentary Switch: This switch is useful for triggering either or both MS-20 envelope

generators, or for triggering external devices, i.e., prother synthesize-OC SEGUEDORY

In addition to the internal matchine matern distributed above, the MS-20 Synthesizer features a variatile patch panel, which alvas knys

greatly supervised creative most inflicies. The following to a tiction of the patch connections available. 56 VCO 1+2 CV tN: This lack allows an external controller, such as enother Synthesizer, to vary the pitch levels of VCO-1 and VCO-2

instant of the MC-20's business! 35 VCO 2 CV 1N: Same as above, but affects VCO-2 only.

3) TRIG IN: Allows the use of external trigger sources (e.g., the MG Barranela gurrus foormisch, or another sunthavitar or sanuspore! to trigger the MS-20 envelope centrators.

\$2 EG-1 TRIG IN: Same as \$1) above, but trippers Envelope Generator

SEKRO CV OUT: Allows the MS 20 Kayboard to control the nitch of another expthesizer.

SEKRO TRIG OUT Whenever you play a key on the keyboard a tripper signal is gentcased. Codinacib., ship printer airead entered is used along with the

KRD CV OUT to operate another synthesizer. 25 EXT SIGNAL IN: This inclusions such automal sound sources as an electric quitter to be processed through the MS-20's VCF and with the VCOs by using the VCO Miver courtrols. In edition, when using the ESP module, the original instrument sound can be mixed in

with the synthesized sounds by using this lack.

STOTAL EXT: This is the input to the MG modulation controls for the VCO's and VCPs. It is internally patched to the MG Triangle wave of A different siscal may be patched to this jack and used for

modulation purposes;

20 INITIAL GAIN (VCA): The VCA is internally patched to the EG-2 output so that changes in volume over time can be programmed. This jack allows an external controller to very the VCA along with the EG-2. When the sam of both controllers reaches is Voits, no further

changes in volume will occur.

This device is a programmate VCA normally used to vary the modulation of stage. Controlled Amplifier (MVCA)

This device is a programmate VCA normally used to vary the modulation intensity (i.e., for deleyed vibrate and modulation wheel functional). Other functions can easily be orgammed via the pantsh.

tion.

3º Noise Generators (PIMK, WHITE): These outputs are a source of both pink and white noise, which may be used as sound source coesched note the IEXT SIGNAL. Ni jetch or a modulating signals. White noise is also available as one of the VCC weedforms. Pink noise is a "district" sounding white noise, with reduced high fire-

quency components.

•9 Samels is reflect (SRO).
A police when great shappen "functions from variable structure, and a police when great shappen "functions from variable structure, and a police when great shappen some (e.g., which shappen some (e.g., when define) was proposed to the investment of the great some (e.g., when define) was proposed to the proposed with a real of a rear trigger in morated and is great some (e.g., when define) was proposed to the proposed with a real of a rear trigger in morated and is great some of the great some definition of the great some definition position in the great some definition position in the great some definition position in the great some proposal.

or an external LFO.

Use this jack for headphones.

35 External Signal Processor (ESP): This poverful module allows external instruments to acceasily "play" the MS-20 synthesizer, with this same power and flexibility as activised by obsying the keyboard! Since everything in a synthesizer is voltage controlled, it is normally.

Since everything in a synthesizer is voltage controlled, it is normally not possible to control a synthesizer directly with an external instrument, which generates audio signals. However, the MS-20's ESP module permits extramal assured sources to very the synthesizer's

pitch, volume, tone color and statuk and rideary by means of built-in Fisch and limedep Followers, which produce control voltages conforming with the input signal's pitch and volume respectively. A trigger signal can also be roundured to rigger the MS-20°C Enrolpes Generators, for programmed state of signal to MS-20°C. Enrolpes Generators, for programmed state of signal to MS-20°C.

The ESP Module consists of high pain preemptifier, vasiable bandpass filter, Envelope Follower/Trigger Detector, and Pitch to Voltage converter. The various outputs are available at the patch panel for commercions to other parts of the synthesized.

#### 6) About Patchina

Secting up a patch is one way of losing the MS-20 more affectively for synthesizing sounds. Patching involves using such outguts as the control wheel in a creative way to control various synthesizer functions they increase the variety of sounds and effects consible.

When setting up a pettil, follow these steps to be sure you get the effect you went:

(1) Where (VCA, VCF, VCO, etc.) do you went to create the effect

and what kind of effect do you want?
(2) What kind of control signal will you need for that effect?
(3) Which section of the synthesizer will generate that kind of

If you don't but your thoughts into this seeds before you start connecting path most from one jets to another, you will not be able to synthetize the event you went. Even if you just use the soll reservat path, whose a strain to path of you just use the interact path, whose a strain path of you just use in interact path, whose a strain and, or only, the sale in down into its elements of light (frequency), cone color or senter othermanic alements), and you want a certain sound, preak in down into its elements of light (frequency), cone color or senter othermanic alements), and you want a certain sound, preak in down into its elements of

the synthesizer.

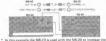
Remember that the keyboard generates both a control voltage and a trigger signal every time you play a key. In other words it acts both

trigger signal every time you play a key. In other words it acts both as a control knob and a excitch, Make full use of this and other tes obvious possibilities for creating sounds. The more softniques you know, the more freely you'll be able to otary the music you want.

#### 7) Expanding Your System

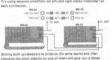
• Here are two examples using the SO-10 Korg Analog Squareox. One simple idea is to set the SO-10 to determine the pitch and tone color produced by the MB-20 at each step. Then if you use the internal clock of the SO-10 to run; through the steps, you will have extrematic most of the MB-20.

(2) For a live performsnor, another effective way of using the SQ-10 is so set up a petch so that the SQ-10 advances one step and changes the tone cofor every time you play a key on the MS-20;



depth and rishwes of the sound.

Convert paths ones from the MS-20 KBD CV OUT and TRIG OUT piets to the MH-10 VCD CV IM and TRIG IN piets to the MH-10 VCD CV IM and TRIG IN piets. With this piets to the MH-10 VCD CV IM and TRIG IN piets. With this averagement, both or unmissiaters owners to exploit when you out to piet with MH-10 keyboard. As archaest of the MH-20, that if you are to piets with MH-10 keyboard. So make the most piet will be an only the MH-10 keyboard. On the MH-10 keyboard in the MH-10



effect or jet effect. This can be effectively used both on stage and for multi-track recording.

8) Using the External Signal Processor (E.S.P)

#### 8) Using the External Signal Processor (E.S.P)

To use the ESP module, follow the steps listed below:

(1) Connect the external signal source (eg. efectric guiter, microphone, electric plane, etc.) to the ESP's SIGNAL, IN jack.

Adjust the Signal Level so that the Peak Level Indicator only fillokers slightly when the external signal input resches maximum volume.
 Turn the Threshold Level control clockwise while watching the

TRIG OUT light, until it lights when playing at medium to high voltage levels.

(4) Connect F × V CV OUT to VCO 1+2 CV IN (or VCO 2 CV IN): connect TRIG OUT (ESP) to the TRIGGER IN jeck, and the ENV OUT lack to the VCA's INITIAL GAIN lack.

(5) To adjust the Bandpass Filtering section for proper operation first set LOW CUT FREQ to "10" and HIGH CUT FREQ to "0". Flay the highest note the ESP is to pick up, sed slowly sure the SIGM CUT control debases used by the design allowly sure the Naut who the Import note and turn the LOW CLFT eventual counterclockwise until it is registered on the MS-20. This completes the Bandpass Filter adjustments. (fi) Adjust the CV ADJUST control until the MS-20 pitch metables

that of the innut instrument (7) If desired, the original sound of the instrument may be original with the synthesized sounds by patching the SSP's PRE-AMP out to

the EXTERNAL SIGNAL IN jack. Open the above stans have been completed, the MS-20 may be programmed for different sounds in the same manner as when the

keybord is utilized.

#### 9) Caution

[1] On the MS-20 there are removable covers at eight places. If you remove these course was will see semi-fixed volume controls. But never touch these controls. They have been adjusted at the factory to give optimum results. If you pure these knobs performance will descriprets and the synthesizer may be demaged. (For example, since the VCO is the heers of the synthusizer, if its balance is unser-

(2) Pay attention to the voltage indications (0 = +5, =5V = +5V. EVpp. GND, etc.) on the petching panel and their relationship with the block diagram and signal flow chart. Note that if you connect A -5 ~ +5V control signal to a 0 ~ +5V input lack, nothing will barroon during the ... 5 or 60/ portion of the control signal. It will

only operate from DV to +BV. So sheave consider both the characteristics of the output and the input and whether the signal is analogue or digital when you set up a perch.



10) Specifications CONTROL SECTION > 1. Mauboner 2. Voltage controlled oscillator 1 (VCO 11

\* C~C 37 hevs/13 octaves) \* Scala 132', 16', 8', 4'1 //6 octaves. 4.5 octions (FM)) \* Western IA & PM ( F) & ) \* Pulse wirlth artices

2 Voltage controlled \* Scale [16] R\* A\* 21 //6 between oscillator 2(VCO 2) d Rambaum (ERALL \* Wantom ( ) [ 0 Rinn modulator / //4 modes)

K VCO mirar

high pass filter

7 Vesture conscribed

8. Envergoe generator 1

10. Modulation penerator

11. Manual controller

forw pass fifter

\* Buch/is Loremai 4. VCO master control \* Master rune/(+% octaves) \* Portamento · Everyward modulation intensity by MG/T EXT

\* Frequency modulation intentity \* VCD-1 level \* MCO. 3 Inval

6. Voltage controlled \* Peak Iffat ~ self OSCI \* Cutoff treaspory modulation intensity by MG/T. EXT.

\* Cutoff frequency modulation \* Curati francency \* Pank (fint - salf OSC) \* Cutoff fraquency modulation

intensity by MO/T EXT \* Cutoff frequency modulation \* Date: time

\* Dalance tome \* Hold time \* Decay time

\* Sustain Isoni \* Balance com-\* Wevelorm (N - A - A ID - LS)

\* Momantary sweets 12. P. switch & volume \* Volume \* Lad [trigger, MG rate] CENTERNAL SIGNAL PROCESSOR > 1. Control section \* Input signal level

A Minty out fraguatory \* CV adjust

2 Input & output \* Signal in Euro and purrent \* Amotifier out/0=+60/ \* Band peer filtered out \* CV out /E OD / De-A9M

\* ENV out/0~+5V \* Trin out -1 000 3. Indicator (LED) \* Best understan

- PATCH PANEL SECTION >

2 VCD

7 100

\* Keyboard tripper purput/ 3L 0to \* VCO 1 + VCO 2 control voltage input (finear response) (0~+6V \* MCO 2 control uniters input thinger responset/0-+8V \* VCO 1 + VCO 2 external frequency ponerol input (OCT/VI) -3V-+3V

3 VCE \* External signal inquit/3Vpn max \* External MR friess outself from man. control input (200T/VH-5V~5V control input (2007/VI/-BV~+6V 4. VCO + VCF IT EXTLIBY-18V \* Externel initial gain control input/ 0-5V 6 60

\* EG 1 anvelope signal normal output/- BV -- GV \* EQ 1 envelope signal reverse ou puspus/+8V - 0V \* EG1 + EG2 trigger input/ 3L gub \* EQ1 + tripper toput/ 3- 040 \* EG2 envetores signal reverse output/ June 04 \* Triangle output ( N - A - A ) /5Vm; \* Recrangle output (17)-17-11 //

8. Noise generator \* Black point output / EUon \* White onite output/5Vpp \* Clock tripper innut/ 72, 500 \* Sample signal input/8Vpp \* 9/M purport/EVen 10. Modulation VCA \* Control voltage input/0~+5V \* Sinnal input/- BV > + BV

A Signal museus/- SV up SV 13. Mamuel constroller \* Control wheel output/-5V-0V-4837 \* Momentary switch/ 24 GND \* Signal output/2Vpp (output 12. Sienel out

impedance 3.5kΩ 4 Mandehopes out/IRD1 120m 13. Headohores 120mwates Power consumption \* 559(W)% 309(DI x 249(H) mm o Ormansions

m.Winish's · Accessories \* Patch cord, connecting cord/ 35 cm x 2, 3 m x 1 \* Stand, case a Decional acultiment

